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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Argentina, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nicaragua, Philippines and South Africa: draft resolution

Traffic in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,

Recalling all previous resolutions on the problem of the traffic in women and girls,

Affirming the provisions of the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders pertaining to the traffic in women and children,

Welcoming the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, on the traffic in women and girls included in his report to the Commission, 1/

1/ E/CN.4/1996/53 and Add.1 and 2.

Acknowledging the work done by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in compiling information on the scale and complexity of the problem of trafficking, in providing shelters for trafficked women and children and in effecting their voluntary repatriation to their countries of origin,

Noting with concern the increasing number of women and girl children from developing countries and from some countries with economies in transition who are being victimized by traffickers, and acknowledging that the problem of trafficking also victimizes young boys,

Convinced of the need to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and sexual trafficking, including for prostitution and other forms of commercial sex, which are violations of the human rights of women and girl children and are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person,

Realizing the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures nationally, regionally and internationally to protect women and girl children from this nefarious traffic,

1. Notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the traffic in women and girls; 2/

2. Welcomes the convening of the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held at Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996;

3. Calls upon Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination, and regional and international organizations, as appropriate, to implement the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women by:

(a) Considering the ratification and enforcement of international conventions on trafficking in persons and on slavery;

(b) Taking appropriate measures to address the root factors, including external factors, that encourage trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriages and forced labour in order to eliminate trafficking in women, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing the perpetrators, through both criminal and civil measures;

(c) Stepping up cooperation and concerted action by all relevant law enforcement authorities and institutions with a view to dismantling national, regional and international networks in trafficking;

(d) Allocating resources to provide comprehensive programmes designed to heal and rehabilitate into society victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance, and confidential health care and taking measures to cooperate with non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims of trafficking;

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2/ A/51/309.

(e) Developing educational and training programmes and policies and considering enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

4. Invites Governments to accord standard minimum humanitarian treatment to trafficked persons, consistent with human rights standards;

5. Invites the United Nations to formulate a manual for the training of personnel who receive and/or hold in temporary custody victims of gender-based violence, including trafficking, with a view to preventing the exacerbation of post-traumatic stress suffered by such victims. In the preparation of the manual, the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, with the cooperation and assistance of relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, in particular those organizations concerned with traumatic stress studies, should examine available research material or studies on the subject with the view to incorporating them in the manual;

6. Requests funding for the above-mentioned manual from the trust fund within the United Nations Development Fund for Women established by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/166 of 22 December 1995 in support of national, regional and international action to eliminate violence against women, and invites Governments and the civil society to make voluntary contributions for the project through the trust fund;

7. Calls upon all Governments to criminalize trafficking in women and girls in all its forms and condemn and penalize all those offenders involved, whether their offence was committed in their own or in a foreign country, while ensuring that the victims of these practices are not penalized, and to adopt appropriate sanctions against persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting trafficking victims in their custody;

8. Urges Governments concerned to support comprehensive practical approaches by the international community to assist women and children victims of transnational trafficking to return home and be reintegrated in their home societies;

9. Invites relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide advisory services to Governments, upon their request, in planning and setting up rehabilitation programmes for victims of trafficking and in training personnel who will be directly involved in the implementation of these programmes;

10. Encourages Governments, institutions and non-governmental organizations to take preventive and assistance measures, including by establishing helplines to enable trafficking victims, or potential victims, to seek assistance and to provide targeted training to those groups dealing with this problem, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, using as far as possible the use of female police officers to assist victims;

11. Also encourages Member States to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the

Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, international agreements on the suppression of slavery and other relevant international instruments;

12. Invites the High Commissioner for Human Rights to include the trafficking of human beings among his priority concerns;

13. Invites States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, taking into account the general recommendation of the Committee;

14. Encourages the Inter-agency Committee on Women and Gender Equality to continue to address the issue as part of the integrated follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women;

15. Encourages all Governments to develop methodologies and to collect national information, including statistical data, on trafficking in women and girls in countries with special vulnerability, and to conduct a campaign designed to increase public awareness of the problem;

16. Welcomes the consideration given to the problems of trafficking in women and girls by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites the Commission to continue to consider appropriate measures to address this issue;

17. Requests the Economic and Social Council to include in the agenda of its coordination segment at a future substantive session the issue of the traffic in women and children, with a view to (a) coordinating efforts for the establishment of databases for use in combating the problem, for the adoption of preventive measures and for assisting victims of trafficking, and (b) assessing and coordinating programmes pertaining to the traffic in women and children, to strengthen them and achieve greater efficiency through coordinated action;

18. Also requests the Economic and Social Council to devote the high-level segment of a future substantive session to the issue of trafficking in women and children, adopting as theme for the meeting "International cooperation for the prevention and elimination of trafficking in women and children, and the rehabilitation of victims of trafficking";

19. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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